

Message Text

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47/43

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 PM-03 DODE-00

DPW-01 PRS-01 EUR-10 IO-03 RSR-01 /070 W

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O R 180940 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3336

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACHTAI BANGKOK

DAO SAIGON/ AOSOP- OR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10882

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (S U B J L I N E)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAM CEASEFIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT, JUNE 10-16, 1973

1. SUMMARY:

THE NEW CEASEFIRE WENT INTO EFFECT AS SCHEDULED AT NOON ON JUNE 15 (LOCAL TIME). RELATIVE CALM WAS RESTORED TO MOST OF THE COUNTRY, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TWO AREAS IN SOUTHERN MR1, WEST OF KONTUM CITY

IN MR2, AND CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE IN MR4, WHERE ON GOING CAMPAIGNS BY BOTH SIDES CONTINUED WITHOUT MUCH PAUSE. THE NEXT PHASE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL NOW SHIFT TO THE TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION TALKS IN SAIGON WHERE THE TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE SIDES WILL HAVE TO IRON OUT AN AGREEMENT ON THE IMPLEMENTING MODALITIES AND A MORE PRECISE DEFINITION OF SOME OF THE POINTS OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF JUNE 13. MOST SOUTH VIETNAMESE OBSERVERS REGARD THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE

AS ANOTHER PIECE OF PAPER AND HAVE NOT BECOME NOTICEABLY MORE HOPEFUL

ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR A LASTING PEACE. FEW TRUST THE COMMUNISTS; SOME HAVE CRITICIZED THE U. S. FOR ALLEGEDLY FORCING THE GVN TO ACCEPT

AN UNFAVORABLE AGREEMENT. THE REACTION OF COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA MEDIA

HAS ALSO BEEN SHOMEHAT MUTED, ALTHOUGH NATURALLY CLAIMING THE JOINT

COMMUNIQUE AS A " GREAT VICTORY " FOR THEIR SIDE. END SUMMARY

2. THE MAJOR EVENT OF THE REPORTING PERIOD WAS OF COURSE THE SIGNING OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE IN PARIS ON JUNE 13. PURSUANT TO THEIS, CEASEFIRE ORDERS WERE ISSUED TO GO INTO EFFECT AT NOON OF JUNE 15 (LOCAL TIME). TWO EVENTS PREDICTED TO ACCOMPANY THIS NEW CEASEFIRE-- VARIOUSLY TERMED THE " REAL " , " ABSOLUTE " OR " CERTAIN " CEASEFIRE-- DID NOT OCCUR; THERE WAS NO LAST- MINUTE " LAND GRABBING " OFFENSIVE BY THE COMMUNISTS, AND NEITHER WAS THERE A COMPLETE CESSATION OF CONFLICT AFTER THE MAGIC HOUR.

3. OFFENSIVE OPERATION OF BOTH SIDES WHICH HAD BEEN INITIATED PRIOR TO THE DESIGNATED TIME TENDED TO CONTINUE. THIS WAS TRUE OF THE LOWLANDS OF QUANG NAM AND QUANG NGAI, WEST OF KONTUM CITY IN THE HIGHLAND AND, MOST NOTABLY, IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE IN THE DELTA.
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OTHER AREAS OF THE COUNTRY, WHICH HAD BEEN THE SCENE OF MODERATE

EXCHANGES OF ARTILLERY AND MINOR CONTACTS ONLY, DID SEE A GENERAL LESSENING OF THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE. VNAF FLEW NO TACAIR SORTIES JUNE 16 AND 17, ACCORDING TO JGS REPORTS. MR 1 NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS HAS NOT HAD A MAJOR INCIDENT FOR FOUR DAYS AND ON JUNE 16 REPORTED THAT NO RPT NO RVNAF ARTILLERY HAD FIRED, THE FIRST SUCH DAY IN MEMORY. MR 2, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF KONTUM, REPORTED ONLY MINOR INCIDENTS. MR 3, WHICH HAD REPORTED THE HEAVY EMPLOYMENT OF TACAIR AND ARTILLERY FIRE IN A NERVOUS ATTEMPT TO FORESTALL THE ANTICIPATED COMMUNIST " LAND- GRAB" ATTEMPT, SAW A NOTABLE DECREASE IN MILITARY ACTIVITY. EXCEPT FOR CHUONG THIEN, MOST OF THE DELTA WAS QUIET, INCLUDING THE AREA IN DINH THUONG WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN THE SCENE OF HEAVY FIGHTING AS THE GVN CONTINUED " NIBBLING" OPERATIONS AROUND THE FRINGES OF A VC/ NVA BASE AREA.

4. WHILE THE CEASEFIRE ORDER HAS BEEN GENERALLY IMPLEMENTED WITH THE ABOVE EXCEPTIONS, GVN OFFICIALS OUTSIDE SAIGON INSIST THEY STILL LACK AUTHORITY TO MEET WITH THE COMMUNIST COMMANDERS AT ANY LEVEL BELOW THE CORPS COMMANDER, AS STIPULATED BY ARTICLE 6 OF THE COMMUNIQUE. IN MR 1 GVN OFFICIALS TOLD AMERICAN CONTACTS THEY PREPARED A MAP OF THE " ONES OF CONTROL" MENTIONED IN ARTICLE 5; IN OTHER REGIONS GVN OFFICIALS CLAIMED THAT THEY HAD NOT YET RECEIVED ANY DEFINITIONS OF TERMS THAT WOULD ALLOW THEM TO INITIATE ANY SUCH PLANNING. THE TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (TPJMC) IS SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS THESE AND OTHER POINTS IN SAIGON ON JUNE 18. THE CHIEFS OF THE GVN DELS AT THE TPJMC REGIONAL SITES WERE PROMPTLY CONVENED IN SAIGON ON JUNE 16 TO DISCUSS FURTHER IMPLEMENTING INSTRUCTIONS ON THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE. IT APPEARS THAT THE GVN IS RELYING PRIMARILY ON THE TPJMC FORUM TO REACH EARLY AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMUNIST ON CLARIFICATIONS AND METHODS TO CARRY OUT THE TERMS OF THE PARIS COMMUNIQUE.

5. THE INITIAL REACTION OF MOST SOUTH VIETNAMESE TOWARD THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT " HO- HUM." FEW CAN DETECT ANY MAJOR CHANGES IN THE DOCUMENT ON WHICH THEY COULD BASE A MORE HOPEFUL ATTITUDE. FEWER STILL HAVE ANY FAITH THAT THE COMMUNIST WILL ABIDE BY THE NEW CEASEFIRE PROVISIONS ANY MORE THAN THEY DID BY THE PROVISIONS OF THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT. THERE HAS BEEN SOME CRITICISM OF THE U. S. POSITION IN THE PARIS NEGOTIATIONS, BLAMING THE AMERICANS FOR " COERCING" THE GVN INTO ACCEPTANCE OF AN UNFAVORABLE RESTATEMENT OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CEASEFIRE. SOME RVNAF OFFICERS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR FEAR THAT THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE IN PRINCIPLE RECOGNIZES THE

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EXISTENCE OF A " THIRD VIETNAM."

6. THE RENEWED STATEMENT OF THE NEED FOR GUARANTEES OF SAFETY FOR
THE ICCS HAS RESULTED IN A HOPEFUL EXPRESIONS THAT THIS WILL FACILI-
TATE THE CEASEFIRE VIOLATION INVESTIGATIONS OF THE REGIONAL AND SUB-
REGI
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